DISARMAMENT

Newsletter of the United Nations Centre for Disarmament Affairs

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Test ban treaty talks take off

At its opening meeting in Geneva on 25 January 1994, the ***Conference on Disarmament,*** led by the President of the Conference Ambassador Gérard Errera of France, re-established its Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban and gave priority to the Committee's work. In the long-sought mandate, the Conference instructed the Committee "to negotiate intensively a universal and multilaterally and effectively verifiable comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty, which would contribute effectively to the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects, to the process of nuclear disarmament and therefore to the enhancement of international peace and security."

...more on a CTBT

Text of the mandate for the Ad Hoc Committee on agenda item 1 "Nuclear Test Ban" adopted by the Conference on Disarmament at its 666th plenary meeting on 25 January 1994

In the exercise of its responsibilities as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community, the Conference on Disarmament decides to re-establish an Ad Hoc Committee under item 1 of its agenda entitled "Nuclear Test Ban", and to give priority to its work.

The Conference directs the Ad Hoc Committee to negotiate intensively a universal and multilaterally and effectively verifiable comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty, which would contribute effectively to the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects, to the process of nuclear disarmament and therefore to the enhancement of international peace and security.

Pursuant to its mandate, the Ad Hoc Committee will take into account all existing proposals and future initiatives, as well as the work of the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts to Consider International Cooperative Measures to Detect and Identify Seismic Events. The Conference requests the Ad Hoc Committee to establish the necessary working groups in order to carry forward effectively this negotiating mandate: these should include at least two working groups, one on verification and one on legal and institutional issues, which should be established in the initial stage of the negotiation, and any others which the Committee may subsequently decide upon.

The Ad Hoc Committee will report to the Conference on Disarmament on the progress of its work before the conclusion of the 1994 session.

The mandate, elaborated in a series of bilateral contacts throughout the intersessional period as well as during a set of informal meetings in Geneva following the conclusion of the First Committee, sets out an initial working structure for the negotiations. Two working groups will be established: one on verification and another on legal and institutional issues. The Committee may establish working groups on other subjects as it deems necessary. The mandate calls for the Ad Hoc Committee to take into account the work of the Ad Hoc Group of Seismic Experts, at work on a third technical test of its blueprint for an international exchange of seismic data in 1995 (GSETT-3).

Documents in review
Conference on Disarmament
CD/NTB...

Group of 21 calls for CTBT completion by end 1994. The Conference's Group of 21 issued a joint statement on 1 December 1993 calling for the Conference to begin urgently the negotiation of a CTBT, with a view to achieving a final text during 1994. They also suggested guidelines for the negotiations that would, in their view, ensure the treaty's speedy conclusion and effective implementation.

Australia submits draft structural outline for a CTBT. As a possible basis for Ad Hoc Committee discussions on how to organize its two working groups, Australia forwarded a draft structural outline for the future CTBT. First introduced during the intersessional consultations in December of last year and submitted officially on 5 January 1994, the paper suggests a detailed list of draft articles for the negotiations, and recommends how negotiation of the articles could be divided between the two working groups.

Indonesia submits statement of President of Amendment Conference. On 27 January, Indonesia submitted the text of the concluding statement made by the President of the Amendment Conference of the Partial Test Ban Treaty at the special meeting of the States parties in New York on 10 August 1993. In that statement, the President, H.E. Ali Alatas, recorded broad agreement on the holding of another special meeting early in 1994 to review developments and assess the situation regarding a CTBT. The statement also underlined that work towards a CTBT should be pursued in the Amendment Conference and in the Conference on Disarmament "in a mutually supportive and complementary manner".

The mandate was presented to the Conference by Ambassador Yoshitomo Tanaka, who helped to usher in the major political development of the 1993 session of the Conference, namely, the decision to endow the Committee with a negotiating mandate. He presented the report on the intersessional consultations he conducted together with the draft mandate to the opening meeting of the Conference.

The Ad Hoc Committee is being chaired by Ambassador Miguel Marín Bosch of Mexico. Ambassador Wolfgang Hoffmann of Germany will chair the Working Group on Verification, while Ambassador Ludwik Dembinski of Poland will handle the Working Group on Legal and Institutional Issues.

The Ad Hoc Committee has begun a general consideration of aspects of the future treaty, starting with scope, verification, organization and entry into force.

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Conference on Disarmament sets agenda for 1994 session

The multilateral disarmament negotiating forum in Geneva began its work for 1994, dominated by efforts to begin negotiations as quickly as possible on a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty (see above for details). The Conference also re-established three other committees–on *transparency in armaments,* chaired by Ambassador György Boytha of Hungary; on *prevention of an arms race in outer space,* chaired by Ambassador José Pérez Novoa of Cuba; and on *negative security assurances,* chaired by Ambassador Alain Guillaume of Belgium. The Conference began to seek actively the most appropriate arrangements to negotiate a treaty banning *the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other explosive devices and* requested Ambassador Gerald Shannon of Canada to serve as Special Coordinator for this purpose.

The Conference is continuing to review its composition with the aim of *expanding its membership* under the guidance of a still to be determined special coordinator. Ambassador Lars Norberg of Sweden will serve as special coordinator to continue the review begun last year of the Conference's *agenda.*

...more on the Conference

CD items at a glance

Security assurances

The *Ad Hoc Committee on Effecitve International Arrangements to Assure Non-Nuclear-Weapon States against the Use or Threat of Use of Nuclear Weapons* will continue to seek a common approach to the development of what are referred to as ***negative security guarantees or assurances.*** During the discussions last year, it was recognized that the dramatic changes in the international political environment, as well as the approach of the 1995 Non-Proliferation Treaty Conference, could add a new impetus to those talks.

Transparency in armaments

The *Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency in Armaments* received many proposals last year on the subject of how to improve transparency and openness in military matters and how to augment the UN Register of Conventional Arms. The discussions last year included an examination of ways and means to increase openness and transparency with respect to excessive and destablilizing accumulations of arms, as well as to military holdings and procurement through national production. Also on the agenda last year was an examination of ways to increase openness and transparency with respect to transfers of high technology with military applications and of weapons of mass destruction. The Ad Hoc Committee is expected to continue its examination of those issues this year, looking more closely at last year's proposals. The General Assembly resolution that established the UN Register in 1992 called on the group of experts meeting in New York in 1994 (see later) to take into account the views of the Ad Hoc Committee.

Outer space

Last year, the *Ad Hoc Committee on Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space* moved closer to a convergence of views on the desirability of elaborating measures designed to strengthen transparency, confidence and security in outer space affairs. It was felt that measures such as structured exchanges of information on planned and actual space activities and the development of a code of conduct could contribute to the overall goal of the Committee, the conclusion of an international agreement or agreements to prevent an arms race in outer space. This year the Committee is expected to continue its work along those lines, bearing in mind the results of the study prepared by a group of governmental experts on the application of confidence-building measures in outer space, presented by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly's forty-eighth session.

Cut-off of production of fissile material

The President of the United States during his address to the last session of the General Assembly in September 1993 declared his country's readiness to seek a *ban on the production of fissile material for weapons purposes.* That decision gave new life to a long-standing proposal, originally forwarded by Canada, for a ban on the production of such material. The Special Coordinator on this item will first need to address organizational questions, such as the framework for negotiations, before tackling substantive questions such as the scope of the prohibition, dates for a cut-off, verification arrangements and the role of the IAEA.

Membership and agenda

At the end of its 1993 session. the Conference came close to agreement on a new composition *expanding its membership* recommended by Ambassador Paul O'Sullivan of Australia, Special Coordinator for the item that year. The list of 23 States was designed as part of a phased approach that would allow for periodic reviews of the Conference's membership. The Conference will appoint a coordinator to guide delegations in a continued review of the question this year. The Conference postponed review of its *agenda* last year while it focused on reaching agreement on a new composition. It was felt that new members should have a say in the future agenda of the Conference. That situation remains the same.

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UN Register of Conventional Arms

Acting on the decision of the General Assembly in 1992 when it established the *United Nations Register of Conventional Arms*, the Secretary-General has convened a group of qualified governmental experts to review its continued operation and further development.

The Group held its first session in from 7 to 11 February 1994. Two further sessions will be held in June and August (see calendar for dates), in order to prepare the report which is to be presented to the General Asembly at its 49th session this year.

Ambassador Hendrik Wagenmakers of the Netherlands, who chaired the 1992 group of experts that was charged with the elaboration of technical procedures for the effective functioning of the Register, is chairing the group. The suggestions made in 1992 greatly assisted States in preparing the first round of submissions to the Register, which were submitted 30 April 1993. That exchange of information culminated in the consolidated report of the Secretary-General presented to the 48th session of the General Assembly, containing 83 replies from governments. The next round is due 30 April of this year.

The Group is comprised of governmental experts from Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Cuba, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, India, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Mexico, Netherlands, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Singapore, United Kingdom, United States and Zimbabwe.

Secretary-General stresses regional dimension of Conventional Arms Register

At a special meeting of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters in Geneva on 12 and 13 January of this year, the Secretary-General suggested that the next stage in transparency and openness in conventional weapons transfers was regional registers. The Secretary-General considers that regional registers have the advantage of allowing the categories of weapons to be registered to reflect the security concerns in the region. The aim must be to reduce arms holdings to levels commensurate with the genuine security needs of States. He emphasized that time had come for the adoption of practical and verifiable measures on conventional arms and stressed that more confidence-building measures, particularly at the regional level, were needed.

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States Parties to Review Inhumane Weapons Convention

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 48/79 of 16 December 1993, amd as requested by the States party to the *1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects* (also known as the Inhumane Weapons Convention), the Secretary-General has convened a group of governmental experts to prepare the first review conference of the Convention.

Invited to participate are representatives of the 39 States Parties (as at 18 February 1994). Signatories, as well as all other Member States of the United Nations, which are not party to the Convention, may participate as observers. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which played an important role in the elaboration of the Convention at the original Conference, has been invited to observe the series of meetings. The States parties may decide to invite other interested competent non-governmental organizations or individuals. An organizational session of the expert group will take place in Geneva from *28 February to 4 March*, while two further sessions (see calendar) will take up substantive preparations for the Conference.

The organizational session will examine the questions of the agenda and programme of work, rules of procedure, financial arrangements, and participation of non-governmental organizations and individuals.

Land-Mines to be discussed as matter of priority

The group of experts are expected to prepare, as a matter of priority, concrete proposals for amendments to Protocol II on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices for the purpose of strengthening restrictions on the use of anti-personnel mines and, in particular, those without neutralizing or self-destroying mechanisms. The experts will also consider the establishment of a verification system for Protocol II and will study possibilites for the broadening the scope of that Protocol in order to cover armed conflicts that are not of an internationai character.

The group is expected to report to the States Parties before the end of 1994 on the results of its work on amendments to Protocol II. States Parties have also proposed that once significant progress is achieved with respect to Protocol II, the group of experts could consider other proposals relating to the Convention and its protocols.

The Inhumane Weapons Convention was adopted following a 1980 Conference and came into force on 2 December 1983. In addition to Protocol II, the Convention has two other protocols: Protocol I on Non-Detectable Fragments and Protocol III on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Incendiary Weapons.

ICRC gathers Military Experts to discuss Anti-Personnel (AP) Mines

The International Committee of the Red Cross followed up its Symposium on AP Mines (Montreux, Switzerland, 21 to 23 April 1993) with a *gathering of some 30 military experts in Geneva, from 10-12 January 1994*. The purpose of the meeting was to examine the military use of AP mines, possible alternatives, and recommendations on ways to alleviate the suffering caused by those weapons. The ICRC will present the report to the meeting of governmental experts charged with the review of the *Inhumane Weapons Convention.*

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Follow-up Verification study begins

Taking action on General Assembly resolution 48/68,the Secretary-General convened a group of qualified governmental experts from 22 to 25 February 1994 to study verification in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations. The group of experts, led by Ambassador Peggy Mason of Canada, is examining the question of verification as a follow-up to the 1990 study on the role of the United Nations in the field of verfication. The Group will meet again in New York in July this year and will also hold two sessions in 1995 in order to prepare its final report in time for presentation to the 50th General Assembly.

The group is composed of experts from Argentina, Austria, Canada, China, Egypt, Hungary, India, Kenya, Mexico, Netherlands, Nigeria, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Sweden and Venezuela.

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Kathmandu Regional Conference

From 31 January to 2 February, the Centre for Disarmament Affairs, through the *United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific,* hosted a regional gathering in Kathmandu, Nepal on "Cooperation in the maintenance of peace and security, and disarmament".

A wide-ranging discussion addressed non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament in south Asia; nuclear issues on the Korean Peninsula; the prospects for regional dialogue in north-east Asia; nuclear-weapon States responsibilities in the region; confidence-building in central Asia; implementaton of agreed CBMs; and transforming the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) into a security forum.

The 40 or so participants were from government, academic and research institutes and non-governmental organizations, mainly in the region. The *Centre* will publish the proceedings of the Conference as a topical paper.

Second Preparatory Committee for 1995 NPT Conference

The second session of the Preparatory Committee for the *1995 Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)* met in New York from 17 to 21 January this year and reached agreement on several important issues relating to the conduct of business for the next two preparatory committees and to the organization of the 1995 Conference itself.

As had been agreed at the previous session, Ambassador André Erdös of Hungary chaired the second session. Of the 162 States parties, 117 attended the meeting.

...more on NPT PrepCom

Upon nomination by the Group of Non-Aligned States, Ambassador Isaac E. Ayewah of Nigeria was appointed to chair the third session of the PrepCom from **12 to 16 September 1994** in Geneva. The fourth session will take place in New York from **23 to 27 January 1995.** The chairmanship for that session has not yet been decided.

Organization of third and fourth sessions of the Preparatory Committee

Decision-making

The Committee decided to make every effort to adopt decisions by consensus. Different from previous PrepComs, however, it also decided that if those efforts fail, the rules of procedure for the fourth Review Conference (1990) would apply. Those rules also emphasize that every effort should be made to reach consensus before the Conference proceeds to a vote, but then set out the procedure for voting on matters of substance.

Presidency

The Committee unanimously endorsed the candidate put forward by the Group of Non-Aligned States, H.E. Mr. Jayantha Dhanapala of Sri Lanka, for president of the 1995 Conference. A formal decision to that effect will be taken by the Conference itself. Ambassador Dhanapala is currently the Director-General for Multilateral Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and is well-known in United Nations disarmament circles. Among his many assignments, he was his country's Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament (Geneva) and Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) in Geneva.

Participation of States not party to Treaty

In a departure from past practice, the Committee decided to allow representatives of States that are not party to the Treaty to attend future sessions as observers if they request to do so. Delegations of those States will not be able to attend closed meetings, but will have access to the documentation of the Committee and will be entitled to submit, at their own expense, documents to the participants in the Committee.

PrepCom decides on NGO attendance

In another unprecedented move, the Preparatory Committee decided to allow NGOs to attend its next two sessions. The terms governing NGO attendance are contained in the decision of the PrepCom, given here for information of readers in its entirety:

"Representatives of non-governmental organizations shall be allowed, upon request, to attend the meetings of the Committee other than those designated closed meetings, to be seated in the public gallery, to receive documents of the Committee and, at their own expense, make written material available to the participants in the Committee. They shall also be given an opportunity, during the third session of the Preparatory Committee, to hold a briefing for those interested on the margins of the Committee's deliberations and at no additional expense to the latter."

NOTE TO NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

NGOs wishing to attend the third session should communicate their interest by writing to:

Secretary of the Preparatory Comittee for the 1995 NPT Conference
Room 3140A
Centre for Disarmament Affairs
United Nations Headquarters
New York, New York 10017, USA
Fax No. (001 212) 963-1121

Organization of the 1995 Conference

Agenda and final document(s)

As it had done at its first session in May of last year, the PrepCom deferred to a later date a decision on the agenda and the final document(s) of the 1995 Conference.

Rules of procedure

The Committee established an informal drafting group to deal with the issue of draft rules of procedure for the 1995 Conference. The drafting group gave preliminary consideration to many suggestions. The Chairman of the second session will compile them for further consideration at the third session.

...more on NPT PrepCom

Background information

As has been done at previous Conferences of the NPT States Parties, the PrepCom decided to invite the Secretary-General of the United Nations to prepare five background papers to be submitted to the third session, which would address various aspects of the Convention. They are:

–A paper in connection with the tenth preambular paragraph of the Convention, covering developments relating to the comprehensive nuclear test ban, focusing on those that have occurred in the Conference on Disarmament, within the framework of the United Nations, in the Amendment Conference of the Partial Test Ban Treaty, and any others;

–A paper on articles I and II drawing on the discussions and results of the four review conferences and covering developments in the area of nuclear non-proliferation, including cross references to matters discussed in the paper by the IAEA on article III (see below);

–A paper covering developments in relation to article VI regarding cessation of the nuclear arms race, nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament;

–A paper on article VII dealing with the issue of nuclear-weapon-free zones with a brief description of the issue of zones of peace;

–A paper on security assurances dealing with both positive and negative security assurances reflecting developments in the Conference on Disarmament and in the United Nations and proposals within the ambit of the NPT and elsewhere.

The papers should focus on the period since the fourth NPT Review Conference in 1990 and refer to earlier developments as appropriate.

IAEA, OPANAL and Raroton;a to report

The Committee also invited the Director General of the IAEA to prepare comprehensive background documentation on the implementation of articles III, IV and V. It also invited the Director General of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) and the Director of the Secretariat of the South Pacific Forum to prepare background papers dealing with their respective activities.

Provisional Secretary–General

Responding to the request made by the PrepCom at its first session, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, after consulting with the members of the Committe, decided to nominate Mr. Prvoslav Davinic of the Centre for Disarmament Affairs as provisional Secretary-General of the Conference. A formal decision to appoint the Secretary-General will be taken by the Conference itself.

IAEA presentations

Representatives of the IAEA gave several briefings to the PrepCom to up-date the participants at the meeting on the functioning of the Agency's system of nuclear safeguards under the NPT as a barrier to proliferation.

A description was given of the Agency's current programme to develop and test a series of new measures designed to reinforce the current safeguards arrangements. Those measures were worked out by a group of safeguards experts and presented to the Agency's Board of Governors in June 1993. The Board reviewed them and requested the Director General of the Agency to make concrete proposals for their assessment, development and testing. The stated goal of the programme (known as 93+2) is to formulate a proposal for a more effective and efficient safeguards system prior to the convening of the 1995 NPT Conference.

Another presentation gave an overview of the Agency's technical cooperation programmes, their legal underpinnings, objectives and financial resources. (For further information, contact the IAEA in Vienna or its office in New York.)

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CALENDAR* *subject to change*

12-13 January	Geneva	Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters
Next meeting: 20-24 June in New York		
17-21 January	New York	Preparatory Committee for the 1995 NPT Conference -Second session
Third session: 12-16 September in Geneva		
25 Jan.-31 March	Geneva	Conference on Disarmament -First part
2nd and 3rd parts: 16 May-1 July and 25 July-7 Sept. in Geneva		
31 Jan.-2 February	Kathmandu	Regional Mtg of the Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific
7-11 February	New York	Expert Group on the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms pursuant to GA res. 46/36L -First session
Future dates: 31 May-10 June and 25 July-5 August in New York		
22-25 February	New York	Group of governmental experts on verification in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations in the field of verification-First session
Future dates: 11-22 July in New York		
20-22 June	Harare	Civil-Military Relations in Post-Conflict and Emerging Democracies in Southern Africa
8 Feb.-4 March	Geneva	Group of governmental experts to prepare the review conference of the Inhumane Weapons Convention -First session
Future dates: 16-27 May and 8-19 August in Geneva		
4-8 April	Libreville	Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa
Future dates: 22-26 August in Luanda		
18 April-9 May	New York	Disarmament Commission
27-29 June	Cotonou	Workshop for Western Africa: Crisis and Instability in Africa

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